

What is claimed is:

1. A printing method for printing a print image on a medium comprising:

5 a step of storing, in a memory area, image data that has been generated by reading an image in an original;

a step of determining whether or not the whole image data corresponding to said print image can be stored, in terms of size, in said memory area; and

10 a step of performing printing up to a preset number of sheets based on the image data in said memory area if it is determined that the whole image data can be stored in terms of size.

2. A printing method according to claim 1, wherein:

15 if it is determined that the whole image data can be stored in terms of size, printing is performed up to the preset number of sheets based on the image data in said memory area without re-reading said image.

20 3. A printing method according to claim 2, wherein:

whether or not the whole image data corresponding to said print image can be stored, in terms of size, in said memory area is determined based on copy-quality-mode information that is defined by

25 either a type of the medium or a copy quality, or a combination thereof.

4. A printing method according to claim 3, wherein:

30 whether or not the whole image data corresponding to said print image can be stored, in terms of size, in said memory area

is determined based on a combined mode that is a combination of  
said copy-quality-mode information, and  
color/monochrome print mode information that defines which  
of either one of the following print modes printing is performed

5 by:

color printing, or  
monochrome printing.

5. A printing method according to claim 4, wherein:

10 the size of said memory area is set to be equal to or larger  
than a maximum size of image data that is generated when performing  
reading according to at least one mode among a plurality of said  
combined modes.

15 6. A printing method according to claim 5, wherein:

the image data is successively stored in said memory area  
until free space thereof runs out; and

if said free space runs out, the image data is stored in  
an area where image data that has already been read out used to  
20 exist.

7. A printing method according to claim 6, wherein:

said image data is CMYK data.

25 8. A printing method according to claim 3, wherein, if it is  
determined that the whole image data cannot be stored in terms  
of size as a result of determining whether or not the whole image  
data corresponding to said print image can be stored, in terms  
of size, in said memory area based on said copy-quality-mode  
30 information:

an area determination for determining an area of the image of said original necessary for printing is performed based on the image data that has been generated by reading the image in the original;

5           whether or not the whole image data corresponding to said print image can be stored, in terms of size, in said memory area is determined based on a result of said area determination; and

          if it is determined that the whole image data can be stored in terms of size,

10                   data that has been re-read for the original having been subjected to said area determination is stored in said memory area based on the result of said area determination, and

          printing is performed up to the preset number  
15           of sheets based on the image data in said memory area.

9.    A printing method according to claim 1, wherein:

          an area determination for determining an area of the image of said original necessary for printing is performed based on the  
20   image data that has been generated by reading the image in the original;

          whether or not the whole image data corresponding to said print image can be stored, in terms of size, in said memory area is determined based on a result of said area determination; and

25           if it is determined that the whole image data can be stored in terms of size,

          data that has been re-read for the original having been subjected to said area determination is stored in said memory area based on the result of said  
30   area determination, and

printing is performed up to the preset number of sheets based on the image data in said memory area.

10. A printing method according to claim 9, wherein:

5 a moving amount for which an image-reading section for reading the image in said original is moved is changed based on the result of said area determination upon re-reading the original that has been subjected to said area determination.

10 11. A printing method according to claim 9, wherein:

a moving amount for which an image-reading section for reading the image in said original is moved is not changed upon re-reading the original that has been subjected to said area determination; and

15 image data corresponding to said print image is extracted from the data that has been read for the original having been subjected to said area determination and is stored in said memory area.

20 12. A printing method according to claim 9, wherein, if it is determined that the whole image data cannot be stored in terms of size:

operation of reading the original is performed every time printing is performed; and

25 printing is performed up to the preset number of sheets using the image data obtained by the reading operation.

13. A printing method according to claim 9, wherein:

30 said area determination is performed according to an image-reading operation that is not accompanied with printing.

14. A printing method according to claim 9, wherein:  
said area determination is performed according to an  
image-reading operation that is accompanied with printing.

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15. A printing apparatus comprising:  
an image-reading section for generating image data by  
reading an image in an original;

a memory area for storing said image data; and

10 a printing section for printing a print image on a medium  
based on the image data read out from said memory area at an  
appropriate timing,

wherein:

whether or not the whole image data corresponding to said  
15 print image can be stored, in terms of size, in said memory area  
is determined; and

if it is determined that the whole image data can be stored  
in terms of size, printing is performed up to a preset number of  
sheets based on the image data in said memory area.

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